

Breakout Sessions

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Lost in Transition: Navigating and Exploring Alternatives

Presenter: Ronnie Nolan

Agency: Kentucky Education
Collaborative for State Agency
Children (KECSAC)

Co-Presenter: Kaye Parker

Students in alternative education settings have historically been very transient, moving frequently and transitioning between traditional schools and alternative programs. This session will examine the results of a one-year mixed methods descriptive study on transition for students in alternative settings. Specifically, participants will learn about the school culture of both the alternative program and the traditional school, where many students are scheduled to return. Student, teacher and administrator voices will provide us with recommendations for navigating this complex transition process.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Caucus Room

It Takes a Village: Curbing the Male Dropout Rate

Presenter: Nashid Fakhrid-Deen

Agency: Kentucky Community and
Technical College System

This presentation will explore the developmental process of African-American males and the importance of older male guidance. Dr. Nashid Fakhrid-Deen will explore how the lack of male guidance affects young males and how it leads to dropping out of school.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Glass Room

Mentoring: Relationships that Decrease the Dropout Rate

Presenter: Ronnie Dunn

Agency: Special Friends Mentoring
Program, Frankfort Optimist Club

A local community group with a passion for kids can have a major impact on keeping students in school. Mrs. Dunn, who founded the school-based Special Friends Mentoring Program in 1996 at Second Street Elementary School in Frankfort, will discuss how a mentoring program can be replicated with few funds across Kentucky. She will discuss how to start and build a volunteer mentoring program in partnership with a school or district, how to recruit mentors and how interested community groups can impact the academic achievement of children by removing barriers to learning.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Kentucky Room A

Pre-K as a Dropout prevention Strategy

Presenter: Cindy Heine

Agency: Prichard Committee

Children who attend high-quality pre-k programs are more likely to graduate from high school on time. This session will provide a review of the research, a description of what has happened with early care and education in Kentucky and plans for the future.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Kentucky Room B

Hispanic Student Dropout Prevention and Truancy Prevention

Presenter: Biby Tinajero

Agency: Fayette County Public Schools

In 15 years, Fayette County Public School's Hispanic student population has dramatically increased from 65 to 3,082 or nearly nine percent of the student body. Statistics show that Hispanic students have disproportionately higher dropout rates nationally and that migrant Hispanic students are even less likely to graduate from high school. Mrs. Tinajero will discuss Fayette County's program to decrease the dropout rate and reduce truancy among Hispanics students with an emphasis on case management practices to help families overcome educational and social barriers and increase parent involvement.

Location: Frankfort Convention
Complex, Back Lobby

Why Kids Act the Way They Do

Presenter: Jon Akers

Agency: Kentucky Center for
School Safety

This presentation will explore many reasons why school-age children experience difficulties while attempting to receive an education. Drug and alcohol use, unstable home environment, mental illness, bullying, academic failure, peer pressure, fear and targeted school violence are some of the issues that cause students to give up on school and drop out. Mr. Akers will share strategies that can help students stay in school.

Location: Frankfort Convention
Complex, Kentucky Green River Room

Summer's Role in Dropout Prevention

Presenter: Jennifer Brady

Agency: National Center for
Summer Learning

Evidence shows that summer learning loss affects nearly all young people and especially those who are in low-income families. Research reveals that two-thirds of the achievement gap between lower and higher-income students results from unequal access to summer learning opportunities. This session will describe how communities are using high-quality summer learning experiences for all students as a key strategy to dropout prevention.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C105

Giving Students with Disabilities a Voice

Presenter: Patricia Seybold

Agency: Kentucky Council on
Developmental Disabilities

The Council on Developmental Disabilities, Protection and Advocacy and the University Center on Excellence at the University of Kentucky will present a panel discussion on the need to begin dropout prevention with students at an early age. The panel's discussion will include methods of prevention and opportunities following graduation by utilizing student self advocacy, and parent and teacher education.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C107

Breakout Sessions

9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Carlisle County Schools Preschool Assistants to Learning (PALs) Program

Presenter: Lisa Mantle Adams

Agency: Carlisle County/S.T.A.R.S.
FRYSC

In Carlisle County's PALs program pre-school children in Head Start receive extra instruction and attention from high school mentors who reap the benefits of serving as a role model. The initiative is a dropout and truancy prevention program that targets at-risk high school students who have poor attendance and excessive tardiness at school. PALs, which is an elective course, gives high school students an incentive to come to school while helping preschool students and teachers.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C109

Writing for Hope and the Community Connection

Presenter: Quincy Murdock

Agency: Fayette County Martin L. King
for Excellence Alternative

To combat dropout, incarceration and academic failure, Martin L. King for Excellence Alternative school has implemented unique community and in-house programs to help students channel energy into positive opportunities. Mr. Murdock will explain how the school uses writing, music and art as therapy and a way to find hope, peace and meaning in students' lives.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C117

The Importance of Parents

Presenter: Lou Ann Cavenee-Ramos

Agency: Prichard Committee

Research shows that parental involvement is key to a child's success in school, yet many parents lack information and skills for being involved, especially as students move into higher grades. This session provides some tips for being involved and for reaching other parents, with a special focus on a parent's role in the Individual Learning Plan (ILP) process.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C118

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Alternative Education Programs: A Viable Way to Increase Kentucky's Graduation Rate

Presenter: Nijel Clayton

Agency: Jessamine County Schools and
The Providence School

Co-Presenters: Lu Young, Denise Adams
and Matt Moore

Currently, more than 60,000 Kentucky students annually receive part or all of their educational services in alternative education programs. This session will review the current status of alternative education programs in Kentucky and the challenges that special education students face in a traditional environment. It also will discuss how The Providence School, an alternative school for middle and high school students in Jessamine County, creates and maintains a culture of dignity and respect for staff and students while reducing the district's dropout rate.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Caucus Room

Working as a Team to Support Student Success

Presenter: Sandy Rutledge

Agency: Parent Teacher Association

A brief overview of PTA's standards on what parents, school and communities can do together to support student success. The session will cover communication, supportive actions, responsibility sharing, collaboration with school community and advocacy actions which will aid student success.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel, Glass
Room

Innovative Practices in the Courts

Panelists: Honorable Joan Byer, Family Court Judge, Jefferson County; Honorable Denise Clayton, Judge, Kentucky Court of Appeals; Honorable Jo Ann Wise, Family Court Judge, Fayette County; and Honorable Dennis Prater, District Judge, Knott and Magoffin Counties

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel, Kentucky
RoomA

Getting Students to Grade 13

Presenter: Tommy Floyd

Agency: Madison County Public Schools

By focusing on the total student and not just the student's academic progress, Madison County Schools engages children in education before their first day of school. Madison County Schools Superintendent Tommy Floyd will talk about collaborative efforts the district has with the local health department, Eastern Kentucky University, local day cares, Patty A. Clay Regional Medical Center and community groups to address all aspects of a child's well being from early childhood through high school and postsecondary education. Mr. Floyd will also address alternative programs and dual college and high school credits for high school students.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel, Kentucky
Room B

Did you know? Are you ready?

Presenter: Polly Marquette

Agency: Partnership at NewCities,
Kentucky Scholars Initiative

Did you know that most students drop out of high school because they are bored and unmotivated? Did you know that the single greatest predictor of student success in college and work can be found in the types of courses students take throughout high school? The Kentucky Scholars Initiative offers communities and school districts a simple yet significant tool to prepare their emerging workforce for the opportunities and challenges that come with a global economy. Employers, community leaders and business owners in the initiative encourage high school students to pursue rigorous classes and learn about a changing and demanding job market.

Location: Frankfort Convention Complex,
Back Lobby

1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m.

Preparing Students for the 21st Century Workforce

Presenter: Barry Adams

Agency: Apple Inc.

Tomorrow's workforce requires a multi-faceted worker whose brain can think both productively and creatively. In order for the United States to compete in a global economy, how should we be training our students? Future jobs in the information age call for skills in leadership, communication, collaboration and creativity. Can we test for accountability and include project-based learning which keeps our students engaged? Dr. Adams will speak about national examples that have changed the way teachers teach and students learn; He also discusses how school districts have shown increases in test scores, student graduation and going-to-college rates.

Location: Frankfort Convention Complex, Kentucky Green River

Project 21C: A New Way of Teaching and Learning

Presenter: Michael Kenner

Agency: Todd County Public Schools

Todd County Public Schools entered into the education-technology Project 21C to create a new way of teaching and learning in the district. The goal for Todd Central High School was to have better attendance and higher graduation and going-to-college rates. With closer evaluation, the district has expanded the project to all students so they will be engaged as they transition from grade to grade. In just six short months, the K12 students of Todd County Public Schools have produced a deeper understanding of their instruction.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C105

Virtual Interventions

Presenter: Tresine Logsdon

Agency: Kentucky Virtual High School and Henry Clay High School

Co-Presenters: Linda Cavalluzo, Todd Neace, Paula White, Amanda Wright and BAVEL Students

The virtual program can open doors and remove hurdles to learning by bridging the digital divide and making it possible for hundreds of Kentucky students to learn despite traditional obstacles to high school diplomas. Districts and schools across the Bluegrass are capitalizing on the success online students have experienced around the country for years. See what is happening at Kentucky Virtual Schools and online programs around the state to serve at-risk students. Learn how to customize proven techniques for your home district that will help you improve learning and graduation rates in your schools.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C107

Using Data to Understand and Identify Dropouts

Presenter: Laura Holian

Agency: REL-Appalachia at CNA, Alexandria, Va. and Virginia Department of Education

Co-Presenter: Michael Flory

Student data can be used as an early warning system to help identify potential dropouts, understand the scope of the problem and target interventions to keep students in school. The panel will discuss specific data systems that are being used or developed including a pilot project that the Virginia Department of Education, National High School Center and Appalachia Regional Comprehensive Center have created called On-Time Graduation Tool.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C109

Education Reform in Kentucky

Presenter: David Karem

Agency: Waterfront Development Corporation

Mr. Karem will give an overview of the impetus for education reform in Kentucky, as well as the politics surrounding the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA) in the Kentucky General Assembly. The major components of KERA will be highlighted.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C117

Future Black Males Academy: Candidates for Greatness

Presenter: Roszalyn Akins

Agency: Black Men Working Academy

Co-Presenter: Dr. Roger Cleveland

Future Black Males Working Academy (BMW), a social and academic program at First Baptist Church Bracktown in Fayette County, offers focused individualized instruction to help close the achievement gap and increase the graduation rate for African-American males. The program partners with Fayette County Public Schools to serve seven middle schools and five high schools. The brain child of Mrs. Akins started out more than four years ago with 44 young men and has grown to 157 students.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C118

The Economic Impact of Dropouts

Presenter: Sherry St. Clair

Agency: Independent Consultant

Dropping out of high school not only affects students but everyone in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Businesses, government and communities all suffer as students fail to complete their high school education. In this session, the true cost of students dropping out of school will be discussed and a business leader will share how dropouts affect the business world. Community leaders will walk away with resources to help them address the issue of dropouts in their hometowns.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C122

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Strategies and Resources to Help Students with Disabilities

Presenter: Kathy Eversole

Agency: Kentucky Department of Education, Division of Exceptional Children Services (DECS)

Co-Presenter: Johnny Collett

For students with disabilities, research shows that post-school outcomes such as transitioning to postsecondary education or employment improve when educators, families, students and agencies work together to implement a broad spectrum of transition planning. Kathy Eversole will share how Division of Exceptional Children Services (DECS) is working with local school districts to identify and implement effective strategies to help students with disabilities complete high school and continue into postsecondary education and employment.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel, Glass Room

Breakout Sessions

3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Mentoring

Presenter: Darryl Thompson

Agency: Whole Armour Mentoring

Mr. Thompson has implemented a “Missing Piece of the Proficiency Puzzle” at Beaumont Middle School for mentoring at-risk students. They all carry a common theme—the absence of a father or positive male figure at home. Through creative scheduling and collaboration, these young men receive instructions on how to win in the game of life. The mentorship program gives the students a new prism from which they view life and teaches them to put on the “whole armour of God” in protecting themselves against the troubles and negative influences of the world. The essentials of feeling good about oneself ultimately is manifested into increased productivity and performance.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Kentucky Room A

Promoting Readiness for Postsecondary Learning

Presenter: Winnie Cohron

Agency: Warren County Public Schools

Helping high school students understand the value of a rigorous curriculum during their four years in secondary school is vital to optimizing postsecondary opportunities. This session will describe initiatives undertaken in Warren County Public Schools, both independently and in collaboration with critical partners, to raise student awareness of what is needed for postsecondary success and provide specific learning support for students who might need pre-college credit remediation.

Location: Capital Plaza Hotel,
Kentucky Room B

The ILP=Students Connecting School to Their Future

Presenter: Julia Harmon

Agency: Kentucky Department of Education

The Kentucky Individual Learning Plan (ILP), in conjunction with effective advising, can be successful in helping students to graduate. This web-based tool for Kentucky’s 6-12 grade students, allows for students and schools to easily share individual information which provides relevant guidance for students as they plan for their futures. Participants will see and hear about the features that help students stay connected to school as well as learn about how schools use ILPs to keep students on track to graduate. Understanding the ILP and how it is helping students plan their futures is important for all audiences, parents, businesses, educators and communities.

Location: Frankfort Convention
Complex, Back Lobby

Career and Technical Education – A Reason to Learn

Presenter: Karen Smith

Agency: Kentucky Career and Technical Education

Co-Presenter: Matt Challif, Dave Clusky
and RaAnn Miller

Involvement in work-based learning experiences can keep students in school and help them find a career path. A panel from Kentucky Career and Technical Education (CTE) and Jobs for America’s Graduates, a school-to-work program for at-risk youth, will discuss how relating academic content to real-world situations also can help students move with a greater degree of success into the workplace and/or postsecondary education.

Location: Frankfort Convention
Complex, Kentucky Green River Room

On Their Level

Presenter: Charlene McGee

Agency: Madison County Schools

Technology is being used as both an instruction tool and an assessment tool to keep students interested in subjects and on course to graduate. Mrs. McGee shares how her district integrates various types of technology into daily instructional activities and uses today’s assessments to affect tomorrow’s instruction. Mrs. McGee will give an overview of technology initiatives used throughout the district including Intelligent Classrooms, Turning Points and Apex Learning.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C107

Best Practices in Dropout Prevention

Presenter: Tom Denton

Agency: Kentucky Education Association

This presentation will share the work of the National Education Association’s Dropout Prevention Initiative. NEA has twelve steps it encourages communities to take to prevent dropouts. NEA works with America’s Promise Alliance and the Jobs for America’s Graduates on its dropout prevention initiative.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C117

The Freshman Transition 101

Presenter: Bridget Wells

Agency: Anderson County High School

Co-Presenter: Missy Higgins

Transitions occur throughout life. A viable and intentional freshman transition program is pivotal to increasing student success and keeping high school students on track to graduate. Learn about a three-part transition process at Anderson County High School and meet high school seniors who participated in these programs as incoming freshman and are mentoring others through this challenging adolescent phase.

Location: Kentucky Transportation, C118